

(c) the steps taken to restore the rightful ownership of the land allotted to the SCs/STs under 20-point scheme; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty police officials and the property dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (d): The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Withdrawal of Cess by Oil Coordination Committee

4692. SHRI MOHAN LAL JHIKRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for withdrawing the cess by the oil Coordination Committee related to Petroleum and Natural Gas in spite of the fact that it is likely to increase the prices of commodities and could create problems to the public; and

(b) the rates of cess in various States and the annual savings made by withdrawing Cess?

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No Cess is levied by the Oil Coordination Committee.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Price of Milk in Andaman and Nicobar Island

4694. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the

Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andaman-Nicobar Island Integrated Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair (ANIIDCO) has increased the price of re-constituted milk;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there have been protests/representations against this hike in milk price from various quarters at Port Blair;

(d) the cost of production of reconstituted milk produced by the ANIIDCO and whether there has been any increase in the price of fresh milk supplied to it by the Animal Husbandry Department of the Andaman Administration; and

(e) the subsidies/concessions etc. given to the ANIIDCO by the Government for running the milk plant and for supplying milk to the public at Port Blair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) to (d). The selling price of reconstituted milk was increased from Rs. 6.25 per liter to Rs. 8.00 per liter by Andaman-Nicobar Island Integrated Development Corporation Ltd (ANIIDCO) with effect from 16.9.91. The ANIIDCO received a protest letter from Bhartiya Janta Party, Andaman and Nicobar Islands in this regard. The cost of reconstituted milk produced by ANIIDCO is Rs. 7.82 per liter excluding salary competent of staff which is met out of the funds of Animal Husbandry Department of the Administration. There is no increase in price of fresh milk supplied by Animal Husbandry Department of the Administration to ANIIDCO.

(e) The Andaman and Nicobar Administration provided initially an amount of Rs. 17,11,007 in cash and milk powder worth Rs. 1627,200 to ANIIDCO towards revolving fund for running the milk plant excluding salary component to which, was being paid by the Administration animal Husbandry Department till 1991-92. From 1992-93 a grant of Rs. 5.00 lakh has been proposed every year for three years.

Pension Cases of Widows of freedom fighters

4695. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pension cases of widows of freedom fighters lying pending as on date;

(b) the reasons for delay in finalising these cases; and

(c) the steps taken for expeditious disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). The number of pension cases of widows of freedom fighters pending at present is 698. When widows apply for transfer of pension, they are required to submit identification documents and pensioner's half of pension payment Order. Non-receipt of these documents sometimes cause delay. Also in certain cases, i.e. where name of the wife has not been indicated by the freedom fighter in his application, a report is required to be called from the District magistrate regarding the particulars of the widow. Where an application is complete in all respects orders are issued on a priority basis. In other cases, documents or report of the District Magistrate as the case may be, is called forthwith.

Distribution of Fertilizers

4696. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large scale wastage in distribution of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the distribution of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Loss of fertilizer during transportation, storage and distribution does occur. However, no large scale wastage has been noticed.

(c) Better packaging and more scientific storage methods are being adopted to reduce the loss in handling. The use of hooks on fertilizer bags is discouraged.

[Translation]

Production of HYV Seeds

4697. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the requirement of the High Yielding Varieties (HYV) seeds by 2000 A.D.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to implement a scheme to achieve this targeted production;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the target fixed for the production of